

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

5/12/94
Approved for Release of
Prescribed by
CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

LOG OF MEETING

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Elizabeth W. Leland, ECPA, Project Manager,
CO Detection 822

LOG ENTRY DATE: March 16, 1994

MEETING DATE: March 8, 1994

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room 518

Consumer Product Safety Commission

4330 East West Highway

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

SUBJECT: Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Mike Babich	Health Sciences
Harleigh Ewell	Office of General Counsel
Larry Hershman	Compliance
Elizabeth Leland	Economic Analysis
Stacey Reuben Mesa	Office of Public Affairs
Don Switzer	Engineering Sciences
Terry VanHouten	Epidemiology - Human Factors

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Byron Dillard	American Gas Association (AGA)
	Arkla Manufacturing Company
Robert Gants	American Gas Association
Jack Langmead	Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA)
Jim Ranfone	American Gas Association
Rick Schaffer	Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: first, to discuss reports of "false positive alarms" associated with CO detectors, and second, to begin making plans for a workshop at which all parties involved and interested in the production, sale, and use of CO detectors would be invited for the purpose of discussing the "false alarm" situation.

Elizabeth Leland, Project Manager for CPSC's CO Detection project, described the reports the Commission has received about

"false alarms" associated with CO detectors and the Commission's plan to monitor those reports closely, and to communicate with all parties involved to determine the scope of the "false alarm" situation and the means to address it.

Jim Ranfone of AGA and Jack Langmead of GAMA indicated that the organizations they represent also were receiving reports of "false alarms" associated with CO detectors. Discussion focussed on the importance for consumers as well as fire service personnel and utility company representatives knowing the proper response to make when a CO detector alarms and the importance of uniformity of response instructions. In addition, comments were made concerning the need to know background ambient levels of CO in homes and examining the performance requirements of UL 2034 and the selectivity of the CO detectors in light of those ambient levels. Mr. Ranfone indicated that it would be important to establish a standardized protocol for the measurement of CO -- a protocol that could be used across the board by those organizations and individuals who respond to CO detector alarm calls. Mr. Langmead emphasized the importance also of alerting consumers to prevention of CO poisoning by proper installation, maintenance, and use procedures. He indicated the reluctance on the part of some gas appliance manufacturers to promote the use of CO detectors until CO detector reliability is assured.

It was agreed that a workshop for all parties interested and involved in the production, sale, and use of CO detectors would be useful to the assessment and addressing of the "false alarm" situation. The intent and hope is that all parties can discuss the situation and agree on a response to the situation. A tentative date of May 24 was set with the location being the Washington, DC area. Mr. Ranfone indicated that AGA was willing to organize the workshop, but also requested that CPSC consider co-sponsorship, along with AGA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), of the workshop. CPSC staff agreed to send this request to the Commission.

CPSC staff, AGA, and GAMA agreed to keep in touch and to begin work immediately on organizing the workshop.